

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 131740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3713

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: BROSIO'S THOUGHTS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MARCH 13 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION AT DCM'S RESIDENCE, ITALIAN SENIOR STATESMAN MANLIO BROSIO EXPRESSED A FAIR MEASURE OF CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT OUT OF TOUCH WITH DAY-TO-DAY EVENTS, BROSIO NEVERTHELESS SAID HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH EUROPEAN REACTIONS TO U.S. INITIATIVES DURING THE PAST YEAR. HE SAID THE EUROPEAN STANCE ON VARIOUS INITIATIVES OF THE SECRETARY -- AND INDEED ON A WIDE RANGE OF ALLIANCE PROBLEMS -- REFLECTED A PREMATURE EUROPEAN QUOTE NATIONALISM UNQUOTE. BROSIO STRESSED THAT EUROPEAN PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GOAL OF UNITY SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CURRENT ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. NATO, HE SAID, EXISTS; A UNITED EUROPE DOES NOT. BROSIO ADDED THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR EUROPE THAN THE U.S. THAT NATO CONTINUE TO BE THE CENTRAL FRAMEWORK OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. HE APPLIED THIS GENERAL PRINCIPLE TO THE PROPOSAL THAT THE WEU BE REVITALIZED AND CONVERTED INTO THE PRINCIPAL FORMS OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE DISCUSSIONS. OBSERVING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING INTRINSICALLY BAD ABOUT THE WEU'S

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STANDING ARMAMENTS COMMITTEE AS A DEFENSE FORUM, THE

QUESTION WAS ONE OF TIMING AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, NOW IT WOULD BE MESSED WITHIN THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2. ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF EUROPEAN MOTIVES, BROSIO JUDGED THAT THE DETERMINING NEW ELEMENT WAS THAT OF PRIDE. EXPLAINING, HE REMARKED THAT 25 YEARS AGO EUROPE HAD NO PRIDE AND WAS WILLING TO FOLLOW U.S. LEADERSHIP WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION. NOW, GIVEN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE, PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF AN ILL-CONSIDERED, SELF-PERCEIVED NEED TO ASSERT A EUROPEAN IDENTITY GROUNDED IN A NEW AREA OF SELF-RESPECT.

3. ON THE MATTER OF CONSULTATIONS, BROSIO, OBVIOUSLY REFLECTING HIS YEARS AS NATO'S SECRETARY GENERAL, SAID NO NEW MECHANISMS WERE NEEDED. THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS EREMINENTLY SUITED FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ANY SUBJECT. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THE POLITICAL WILL TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATIONS MUST BE PRESENT. ON THIS SCORE, BROSIO WAS CRITICAL OF BOTH THE U.S. AND EUROPEANS, BUT ESPECIALLY THE LATTER. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CAUSTIC ABOUT THE RECENT DECISIONS OF THE NINE RE THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS.

4. THE SUM, BROSIO REMAINS THE TOTALLY DEDICATED ATLANTICIST WHO LOOKS FORWARD TO THE DAY OF A UNITED EUROPE BUT WHO IS TOO MUCH THE REALIST TO BELIEVE THIS IS AROUND THE CORNER. AND, REGARDLESS OF WHEN IT COMES, IT SHOULD NEVER BE AT THE EXPENSE OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALLIANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME03517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740346/aaaabros.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BROSIO'S THOUGHTS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, US, XF, NATO, (BROSIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005